

2011 Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper Emergency Rule
Frequently Asked Questions
August 2011

What does the 2011 Red Snapper Emergency Rule do?

- The emergency rule increases the total allowable catch of red snapper quota in the Gulf of Mexico for 2011 from 7.185 million pounds to 7.53 million pounds, and adds that 345,000-pound increase to the recreational red snapper quota.
- The rule also authorizes NOAA Fisheries Service to provide a supplemental recreational red snapper season later this year, if appropriate.

Where is the rule effective?

- This emergency rule applies to all recreational fishermen harvesting red snapper in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico, as well as federally-permitted for-hire vessels harvesting red snapper in the waters of Gulf Coast states.

Who will be affected?

- Recreational fishermen in the Gulf of Mexico would benefit from this rule if NOAA Fisheries Service determines the recreational sector did not harvest the full amount of its 2011 red snapper quota during the initial red snapper season and affords them the opportunity to do so during a supplemental recreational red snapper fishing season.

Why is the additional quota going to the recreational sector?

- Because of the greater economic impacts incurred to the recreational sector in 2010 from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, the Council requested the entire 345,000 pounds of increased quota be added to the recreational quota for the 2011 season.
- During 2010, the recreational sector harvested only 66 percent of its quota, whereas the commercial sector harvested 96 percent of its quota.

When would a re-opening occur?

- If NOAA Fisheries Service determines that the recreational red snapper quota was not reached by the initial July 19, 2011, closure date, then the agency will reopen the season during Fall 2011.

How will I find out about a Fall re-opening for Red Snapper?

- Notice of re-opening will be provided through the *Federal Register*, fishery bulletin, and through the Southeast Regional Office's Web page: <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>
- If you would like to receive these fishery bulletins via e-mail, please e-mail us at SERO.Communications.Comments@noaa.gov and include: (1) "Request for Electronic Fishery Bulletins" in the subject line; and (2) Your preferred email address in the body of the email.